

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A seal assembly, comprising:
 - a first body;
 - a second body;
 - a primary seal disposed between the first body and the second body and adapted to seal critical pressure coming from a single direction;
 - a redundant secondary seal, serving no other purpose but to back up the primary seal in the event of failure of the primary seal, disposed between the first body and the second body in spaced relation to the primary seal and shielded from the critical pressure by the primary seal;
 - a pressure port extending through one of the first body or the second body between the primary seal and the secondary seal; and
 - means for detecting a pressure increase within the pressure port, thereby indicating a failure of the primary seal.
2. (Original) The seal assembly as defined in Claim 1, wherein the second body is positioned within the first body.
3. (Original) The seal assembly as defined in Claim 2, wherein the second body is a shaft which does one of reciprocates or rotates.
4. (Original) The seal assembly as defined in Claim 3, wherein both the primary seal and the secondary seals are annular seals.
5. (Currently amended) A seal assembly, comprising:
 - a first body;
 - a second body in the form of a shaft disposed within the first body, the shaft being capable of one of reciprocating or rotating;

a primary seal grouping including several annular seals disposed between the first body and the second body, and adapted to seal critical pressure coming from a single direction;

a redundant secondary seal grouping serving no other purpose but to back up the primary seal grouping in the event of failure of the primary seal grouping, the secondary seal grouping including several annular seals disposed between the first body and the second body in spaced relation to the primary seal grouping and shielded from the critical pressure by the primary seal grouping;

a pressure port extending through the first body between the primary seal grouping and the secondary seal grouping; and

a pressure sensor for detecting an increase in pressure within the pressure port, thereby indicating a failure of the primary seal grouping.